

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Original) A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's
2 heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
3 a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;
4 wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said
5 cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers
6 downward toward said front and said rear; and
7 a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core
8 layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said
9 cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear.
- 1 2. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said layers are each constructed of a foam.
- 1 3. (Original) The heel pad of claim 2, wherein said layers are constructed of a
2 polyurethane foam.
- 1 4. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1 further comprising a cover constructed of fluid
2 resistant material in which said cushion is received.
- 1 5. (Original) The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover includes a pocket having at
2 least one open end formed beneath said cushion and separated therefrom by a layer
3 of cover material; and
4 a riser insertable within said pocket to raise a portion of said cushion.

- 1 6. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 5, wherein said [[pad]] riser is triangular
2 in shape and has an inclined surface that extends from the front of said cushion
3 upwardly to the rear of said cushion.
- 1 7. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 6, wherein said pocket has a triangular
2 section that conforms to the triangular section of said [[pad]] riser.
- 1 8. (Original) The heel pad of claim 4, wherein said cover has a flap attached at either
2 end, said flaps extending downwardly from a base of said cover; and
3 a strap extending between said flaps adapted to secure said cushion beneath the
4 calves of the patient.
- 1 9. (Original) The heel pad of claim 8 further comprising a quick connector attached to
2 said flap and extending downwardly for attachment of said strap to said flaps.
- 1 10. (Original) The heel pad of claim 8, wherein said flaps extend a selected length for
2 covering the sides of the mattress.
- 1 11. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has a density of about 1.5
2 lbs. per cubic foot.
- 1 12. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a density of about 3.5
2 lbs. per cubic foot.
- 1 13. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 1
2 inch to about 4 inches.
- 1 14. (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said thickness of said cushion is about

2 2 inches to about 2.5 inches.

1 15. (Original) The heel pad of claim 14, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about
2 2.25 inches.

1 16. (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about
2 one half of the thickness of the cushion.

1 17. (Original) The heel pad of claim 15, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about
2 one inch.

1 18. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has an apex located
2 centrally relative to the front and rear of said cushion.

1 19. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said core layer has a radius of about 4 to
2 about 8 inches.

1 20. (Original) The heel pad of claim 1, wherein said top layer has front and rear edges that
2 round downwardly to conform respectively to the knee and heel of the patient.

1 21. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim 20, wherein said front and rear edges of
2 said top layer round downwardly in a symmetrical fashion and have a radius of about
3 one ~~[[mch]]~~ inch.

1 22. (Cancelled)

1 23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 22 further comprising~~ A method of

- 2 reducing the likelihood of decubitus heel ulcers comprising:
3 providing a cushion having a front, a rear, a top and a bottom, where said
4 cushion includes a core layer and an outer layer, where the outer layer is softer than
5 the core layer and thicker toward the front and rear of the cushion;
6 inserting the cushion beneath the calves of the patient and cantilevering the
7 heels of the patient over the end of the pad covering the pad with a fluid resistant
8 cover having downwardly extending flaps and tucking said flaps in around a mattress
9 to maintain the position of the [[pad]] cushion relative to the calves of the patient.
- 1 25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of tying said flaps to
2 each other below the mattress.
- 1 26. (Original) A heel pad used to offload pressure on the heels of a patient, when the
2 patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
3 a cushion having a core layer and a top layer, said top layer being softer than
4 said core layer;
5 wherein said core layer has a front edge, a rear edge, and a top surface spanning
6 said edges, said top surface of said core layer defining a semi-circular arch;
7 wherein said arch has a centrally located apex adapted to reside beneath the
8 patient's calves;
9 wherein said top layer covers said core and has a thickness that is substantially
10 inversely related to a thickness of said core layer, wherein front and rear edges of said
11 top layer curve downwardly from the top surface of said top layer to define a
12 clearance between the cushion and the heels and knees of the patient;
13 an at least fluid resistant cover surrounding said cushion and including a base
14 residing beneath said cushion;
15 a pair of flaps extending downwardly from said base, wherein said flaps are
16 adapted to fit around an edge of the mattress.

- 1 27. (Original) The heel pad of claim 26 further comprising a securement assembly
2 attached to said cover for holding the cushion on the mattress.
- 1 28. (Original) The heel pad of claim 26, wherein said cover includes a flap extending
2 beneath said base to define a pocket; and
3 a removable riser receivable in said pocket.
- 1 29. (Original) The heel pad of claim 28, wherein said flaps extend downwardly from said
2 flap beneath said pocket.
- 1 30. (New) A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels
2 when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
3 a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;
4 wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said
5 cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers
6 downward toward said front and said rear; and
7 a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core
8 layer and thicker toward the front and rear edges.
- 1 31. (New) The heel pad of claim 30 further comprising a riser located below said cushion
2 and adapted to raise at least a portion of said cushion relative to the mattress.
- 1 32. (New) The heel pad of claim 31, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly an extent
2 effective to avoid pressure against the patient that would reduce blood flow to the
3 patient's calf and heel.
- 1 33. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at the front
2 edge to define a clearance between the top surface of the cushion and the underside
3 of the patient's knee.

- 1 34. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius
2 of at least about 1 inch.
- 1 35. (New) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius
2 conforming to the radius defined by the patient's calf and at least one of the patient's
3 knee and heel.